

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

TRANSLATION

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PCT05234

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/021879

International filing date (day/month/year)

29.11.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)

16.12.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Date of completion of this opinion	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ the translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rule 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	_____	YES
	Claims	<u>1-14</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-14</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
2. Citations and explanations:			
<p>Document 1: JP 2004-073649 A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 11 March 2004, full text; all drawings & EP 1547567 A1 & WO 2004/017890 A1</p> <p>Document 2: JP 2004-167056 A (Yasukawa Electric Corp.), 17 June 2004, full text; all drawings (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 3: JP 2004-105261 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 08 April 2004, full text; all drawings, (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 4: JP 2003-089083 A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 25 March 2003, full text; all drawings & EP 1410780 A1 & WO 2003/002054 A1</p> <p>Document 5: JP 2003-079684 A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 18 March 2003, full text; all drawings & EP 1410780 A1 & WO 2003/002054 A1</p> <p>Document 6: JP 2003-116893 A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 22 April 2003, full text; all drawings & EP 1442703 A1 & WO 2003/032832 A1</p>			

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

In claims 1, 3, 9, 13, and 14 it is described that “a value of factor γ is set in accordance with a factor function $\gamma(f, y)$ with an external force f and a motion variable y as variables,” but the meaning is unclear as to what kind of function.

Claim 2 describes “a base function $F(x, \alpha)$ with an electric potential x and a coefficient α as variables,” but the meaning is unclear as to what kind of function.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: Box V

Claims 1 to 5

The inventions of claims 1 to 5 do not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1 to 3 cited in the ISR. Documents 1 to 3 describe an external force control method having a myopotential measuring step of measuring a myopotential x produced by a body of an animal, an external force setting step of setting a value of an external force f to be effected on an animal via an outfit in accordance with an external force function $f(x)$ - with the myopotential x as a variable based on a measurement value of the myopotential x , and a motion variable measuring step of measuring a motion variable y that varies in accordance with motion of an animal in a state which the external force f is being effected via the outfit.

Carrying out feedback control is a widely known technical matter.

Claims 6 and 7

The inventions of claims 6 and 7 do not appear to involve an inventive step based on documents 1 to 5 cited in the ISR. Documents 4 to 5 disclose an external force control method in which measurements of resultant force F are provided.

Claims 8 to 12

The inventions of claims 8 to 12 do not appear to involve an inventive step based on claims 1 to 6 cited in the ISR. Document 6 discloses a step of determining a condition of motion in which a condition of motion of an animal is determined in accordance with a predetermined responsive relationship between a base motion variable and a motion condition of an animal.

Claim 13

Documents 1 to 3 describe an external force control system in which an external force effected on an animal is controlled via an outfit fitted on the animal moving in accordance with muscle fiber activity, having myopotential measuring means of measuring a myopotential x produced by a body of an animal, external force setting means of setting a value of an external force f to be effected on an animal via an outfit in accordance with an external force function $f(x)$ - with the myopotential x as a variable based on a measurement value of the myopotential x by myopotential measuring means, and motion variable measuring means of measuring a motion variable y that varies in accordance with motion of an animal in a state in which an external force is being effected via the outfit.

Feedback control systems are widely known technical matters.

Supplemental Box

Continuation of: Box V

Claim 14

Documents 1 to 3 disclose an external force control program provided in a computer having a function controlling an external force effected on an animal via an outfit fitted on the animal moving in accordance with muscle fiber activity, having a myopotential measuring function of measuring a myopotential x produced by a body of an animal, an external force setting function of setting a value of an external force f to be effected on an animal via an outfit in accordance with an external force function $f(x)$ - with the myopotential x as a variable based on a measurement value of the myopotential x , and a motion variable measuring function of measuring a motion variable y that varies in accordance with motion of an animal in a state in which an external force is being effected via the outfit.

Feedback control programs are widely known technical items.